

Monthly Homeschool Programs

(Registration begins August 13, 2012)

Children's programs Days and Times: Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 10:00 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. 90 minute programs,
Dates are listed below. Cost: \$7.50/person per program Three Age Groups for classes: 3-5 year olds; 6-8 year olds; 9-12 year olds

Parent Education Programs

Dates and Times: Same days as children's programs, at 10:15 a.m. or 12:45 pm
60 minute program Cost: \$5.00/person per program Ages:13-Adults

To register : Click on the link to Homeschool Registration, [registration](#) Fill out the registration form and the waiver form, mail, email, fax or bring it by The Austin Nature and Science Center, please include the payment. Call if you have any questions or concerns 512-974-3888.



Insects (September 24, 26, 28):

Observe insects and their arthropod kin up close in the classroom. Discover characteristics of insects that help them to adapt to their environments. Use field nets to

collect insects from different habitats and learn to identify and classify them.



Fossils and Faults (October 29, 31, November 2): Explore the banks of Shoal Creek and find evidence of ancient marine life. Discover the geologic forces that shaped Austin's unique landforms that we see today.

Identify and collect marine fossils. Program meets at Pease Park: [Map](#)



Reptiles (November 26, 28, 30): How are reptiles different from other animals? Observe and touch some live reptiles and discover interesting facts about lizards, turtles, and snakes. Explore reptile

anatomy using our preserved specimens and learn how reptiles face the challenges of their endothermic lifestyle.



Roller Coasters (January 28, 30, February 1): Use your own creativity and our supplies to build a model rollercoaster. Explore how gravity and friction affect the thrill of the roller coaster ride. Investigate



conservation of energy as you watch the "rider" take off down the hill. Test your rollercoaster for speed, safety and coolness.

Very Small (February 25, 27 and March 1): Most living things on earth are too tiny to see without magnification. How small are fungi and bacteria? Find evidence of tiny life outdoors and examine a hay infusion under a microscope. Learn how to grow bacteria from your



hands, and how yeast and bacteria help create the foods we eat. Explore how microscopic life both harms and helps us.

Fish Fun (March 18, 20, 22):

Catch fish in the pond and view collected specimens under magnification. Learn how fishes' unique anatomy and adaptations allow them to thrive in a watery world. Discuss how water quality and human

activities effect the conservation and survival of Texas fish.



Wildflowers (April 29, May 1, 3): Hike in the different habitats of the Zilker Botanical Gardens and see

how important wildflowers are to ecosystems. Identify some common Texas wildflowers. Discover how flowers lure their pollinators, spread their seeds, and protect themselves from threats. Program meets at the Zilker Botanical Gardens in Zilker Park. [Directions](#)

Science Experimenters Club



Have you ever wondered how scientists ask a good question and then design an experiment to find the answer? The Science Experimenters Club is the place to find out. **This program is for 3rd through 6th graders (age 8 - 12), and meets two Thursdays per month from 3:00-4:30 p.m. The program cost is \$75.00 per student for all 10 classes.** We will perform experiments together and learn how to design a simple experiment (including independent and dependent variables, holding other conditions constant, and experimenting safely). Then, students will:

- choose their own topic of interest
- carry out their own experiment at home
- make a poster
- practice their public speaking skills by presenting the results to the group

For homeschooled students who wish to enter their experiments in the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival, we will advise on the entry rules and help with paperwork.

Timeline (all topics will be taught through classroom and outdoor activities):

October 4, 2012 – What IS an experiment? (the scientific method)

October 18, 2012 – What makes for a good question? (testability)

November 1, 2012 – Designing an experiment
(independent/dependent variables)

November 15, 2012 – How to measure all sorts of things

November 29, 2012 – How to display results (also some example projects)

December 13, 2012 – Science fun (what are the students' project ideas)

(Students begin their own projects at home over the holidays)

January 10, 2013 – More science fun (plus troubleshooting student projects)

January 24, 2013 – Student presentations and comments

February 7, 2013 – Student presentations and comments

February 21, 2013 – Wrap-up and certificates

Regional Science Fest is February 23 and 24, 2013.

